

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00218 071915Z

46

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11

FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06

PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02

SCI-06 CEQ-02 AGR-20 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 INT-08 OC-06

CCO-00 FPC-01 ARA-16 EA-11 DRC-01 /197 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5075

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FOR COMMERCE/MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN UR

SUBJ: BILATERAL US-USSR MARITIME MATTERS

REF: A. STATE 244003; B) MARAD TELEX TO EMBASSY OF 12/20/73

1. ECON/COMM COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF MET JAN 4 WITH USSR MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE FOREIGN RELATIONS CHIEF AVERIN TO RECEIVE DOCUMENTS SENT TO HIM FOR SIGNATURE AS PER REFTEL B. THESE BEING AIRPOUCHED TODAY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL (REGISTRY NO. 956679).

2. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION, AVERIN REFERRED TO EMBASSY LETTER OF DEC 18 TO MINISTRY SETTING OUT SALIENT POINTS OF REFTEL A. IN THAT CONNECTION, AVERIN HANDED ECON/COMM COUNSELOR LETTER, COMPLAINING OF DELAYS AND/OR REFUSALS OF CERTAIN US PORT AUTHORITIES IN BUNKERING SEVERAL SHIPS TIME-CHARTERED BY V/O SOVFRACHT, AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00218 071915Z

A) "CUNARD GIFTEYN" - PORT OF NORFOLK, DEC 14-28.

SHIP ORDERED 1100 TONS OF FUEL OIL AND 150 TONS OF GAS OIL; IT RECEIVED ONLY 113 TONS OF GAS OIL WITHOUT EXPLANATION OF REASONS.

B) "GERLENA" - PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, DEC 13-16. SHIP ORDERED 200 TONS OF FUEL OIL; IT RECEIVED NOTHING.

C) "EVROS" - PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI. ORDERED 600 TONS OF FUEL OIL AND 30 TONS OF DIESEL FUEL; RECEIVED NOTHING. DEPARTED DEC 29.

THIS, LETTER CONTINUES, OUT OF 2080 TONS OF BUNKERS ORDERED DURING DECEMBER, 1973, DELIVERIES OF 1930 TONS WERE REFUSED. AVERIN REQUESTED ON URGENT BASIS EXPLANATION OF THIS SITUATION, PARTICULARLY GIVEN ASSURANCES SET OUT IN EMBASSY LETTER ON BASIS OF STATE 244003 THAT FOREIGN SHIPPERS ENGAGED IN TRADE WITH US WOULD RECEIVE 100 PERCENT OF THEIR CURRENT RESUDUAL FUEL OIL REQUIREMENTS ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY ASAP IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CREDIBLE RESPONSE TO AVERIN. (FYI. FOR WHOLE OF 1973, AVERIN CLAIMED, AMERICAN SHIPS RECEIVED 120,000 TONS OF BUNKERS IN SOVIET PORTS, WHEREAS SOVIET SHIPS RECEIVED ONLY 2000 TONS IN US PORTS. END FYI)

3. AVERIN ALSO RAISED MATTER OF TIMING FOR NEXT BILATERAL COMMISSION METTING UNDER TERMS OF US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT, SUGGESTING PERIOD MAY 13-25, 1974 IN MOSCOW. HE STATED THAT THIS PROPOSAL BEING SENT DIRECTLY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL VIA MINISTRY TELEGRAM. AT TIME OF NEXT COMMISSION MEETING, AVERIN NOTED, SOVIET SIDE INTENDS RAISE QUESTION OF USG PROHIBITION AGAINST BUNKERING OF SHIPS (INCLUDING SOVIET) WHICH HAVE CALLED AT PORTS IN CUBA, NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA. DISCLAIMING ANY INTEND TO INTERFERE IN U.S. INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, HE SAID THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES TO EXAMINE AND RENEW THE PROVISIONS OF THE US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT, DURING THE FOURTH SESSION WHICH SHOULD BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 1974, THE SOVIET SIDE WILL WANT TO TAKE UP QUOTE THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH EXPERIENCE HAS PROVEN WEAK END QUOTE, AND WILL PUSH ESPECIALLY HARD FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00218 071915Z

MUTUAL BUNKERAGE. CURRENT PRACTICES ACCORDING TO AVERIN HAVE EFFECT OF DISCRIMINATING AGAINST USSR, SINCE MOST SOVIET SHIPS AS NATURAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET RELATIONS WITH CUBA, NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA HAVE CALLED AT THEIR PORTS.SOMMERLATTE

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